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9 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Rivers' Presentation of H. R. 8427 to the House Rules Committee

1. In open session, Representative L. Mendel Rivers, accompanied by Representative William H. Bates and Committee Counsel, Russell Blandford, presented the request for a rule to permit floor action on H. R. 8427 limited to one-hour debate. Rivers read a prepared statement giving the main features of the bill. Representative Howard W. Smith questioned strongly the absence in the bill itself of any criteria or limitations on numbers and types of people the Director could designate for the system. Representative Clarence J. Brown questioned the same point and, in addition, raised serious questions about whether or not CIA was efficient referring to [redacted] the Bay of Pigs. Mr. Brown stated there was too much mystery concerning the Agency and he queried whether the Armed Services Committee had ever truly investigated the Agency or whether it simply relied on reports. Mr. Rivers said he had not participated in any investigation but stated the Agency had been very frank and candid in its reports to the Committee which were not in writing. Brown also asked the total number of employees in the Agency and Mr. Rivers stated he could not give it in open session but would be glad to give to the Chairman or any other member of the Committee privately the number.

2. Representative Katharine St. George stated she had serious reservations concerning the bill since it did not have any specific limitations on the types of people to be covered. She thought that it

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would be an easier job to get the bill past the House if there were such wording. Mr. Rivers stated that he would be happy to discuss this with her, planning to accept Mrs. St. George's suggestion that the criteria of hazardous duty be inserted in the bill.

3. Representative H. Allen Smith picked up the same theme and stated that while he knew John McCone very well this was simply too much discretion to grant the Director, adding that the Director of CIA already had too much power.

4. Representative Richard Bolling prefaced his remarks by saying that he was going to support a rule as well as the bill but on the other hand he felt that the interest of the Congress could be better served if there were a Joint Committee to function as a watch dog over the Agency and added that he thought possibly there would be many benefits accruing to the Agency since existing parent committees are saddled with many other and important responsibilities.

5. Mr. Rivers stated he thought the Agency was doing a fine job and that this bill is very much needed to assist in the management of the Agency with its manifest problems including the unique situations in which its personnel are placed. Mr. Bates commented that he strongly supported the bill adding that he was amazed to have learned that the Agency had not had this all along and felt this was definitely a proper step in the right direction.

6. Subsequently, it was learned the Rules Committee acted favorably granting the rule for two-hour debate with a proviso that an amendment be worked out for defining in some degree the types of people who would be covered under the bill. Three members were designated to meet with Committee Counsel, Russell Blandford, and a representative of the Agency tomorrow morning at 10:30. The three members are: H. Allen Smith, Katharine St. George and James J. Delaney.

7. In view of the types of questions that were raised during this hearing, Mr. Rivers in a session with the undersigned later requested that we prepare for him some material which he could use during the floor discussion. I said I would be happy to work on this for him and have it available upon his return to Washington.

cc: DCI
DDCI
Executive Director
D/Personnel

s/ John S. Warner

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel